



CITY OF FRESNO

# MEDIA RELEASE

ASHLEY SWEARENGIN, MAYOR

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## Free Give and Take Plant Event Offers Water-Wise Landscaping Tips

**(FRESNO, CA)** – The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Water-Wise Give and Take Plant Event that helps educate the community on water-conserving landscapes will be held at the Fresno State Horticulture Greenhouse Park, located at 3150 E. Barstow Ave., on May 2 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Perhaps now, more than ever, placing a priority on Fresno-friendly landscaping is an important effort towards water conservation. The Water-Wise Plant Give and Take Event is made possible by partnering gardeners and local organizations committed to offering the community beautiful and drought-tolerant options for their businesses and homes. Experts in native and water-wise plants will be on-hand to offer advice for nurturing yards and gardens that are beautiful and can thrive in San Joaquin Valley weather with a minimal amount of water.

Guests who attend, will receive a limited amount of free water-wise plants, cuttings, bulbs, seeds, or trees in exchange for plants they bring from their gardens to share with others. Gardeners who donate water-wise plants, cuttings, bulbs, seeds and trees to share with other guests will receive *something special* for their contributions.

During the morning event, there will be: a Master Gardener Clinic; plant information booths; irrigation and controller experts; a kid's Mother's Day craft project; gardening experts; student projects; garden art; workshops; and a super plant sale at the Fresno State Nursery.

This spring-time event has grown year after year as residents look for more options to help save our water. Landscape irrigation represents up to 70 percent of water used in a typical household – much of this water is wasted by inefficient irrigation and water-guzzling landscape. By planting water-wise San Joaquin Valley-friendly plants and trees that use two-thirds less water than other plants, households can save water and money without sacrificing a beautiful landscape. In addition to water-wise planting practices, households can also save 15 to 25 gallons of water per day by adjusting sprinklers so they don't water driveways, streets and sidewalks.

"Many people interpret 'drought-resistant' as dry landscapes with dirt, rocks and cactus," said Nora Laikam, Fresno's Water Conservation Supervisor. "But every year, the public is amazed at the array of colorful and beautiful options we have at the Water-Wise Plant Event that are not only beautiful, but conserve water and can save them money."

As an additional learning opportunity, William Kahrl will present “Death in the Almond Orchard: Five Simple Questions to Resolve California’s Water Crisis.” on Friday, May 1 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Fresno State’s Henry Madden Library. Kahrl brings a unique, independent perspective to the challenges we are facing and the steps Californians will have to take together to heal the damage to the water system, our economy, and the environment. The event is co-sponsored by The Friends of the Madden Library and the City of Fresno. For information and reservations, call (559)278-5790.

For a brochure with a list of water-wise plants, water conservation gardening tips and more information about the Water-Wise Give and Take Plant Event, click on “Conservation” at [www.fresno.gov/water](http://www.fresno.gov/water) or call (559) 621-5480. For more information about Fresno State Nursery sale, call (559) 278-2828.

### **Water-Wise Give and Take Plant Event Partners**

A collection of community partners and exhibitors make this even possible, including: City of Fresno Water Conservation Program; Central Valley Water Awareness Committee\*; Fresno State Horticulture Unit; Irrigation Association; UC Cooperative Extension, Master Gardener Program; California Native Plant Society; Clovis Botanical Garden; Tree Fresno; Fresno Iris Society; Center for Irrigation Technology at Fresno State; Friends of the Henry Madden Library at Fresno State; Center for Advance Research and Technology (CART); Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society; USDA Agricultural Research Service / NALPGRU; Fresno County Office of Education – SCOUT Island; Central Valley Friendly Landscaping Awards Program; US Green Industry Council; United Cerebral Palsy of Central California.

\*Central Valley Water Awareness Committee Members include: Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies; Bakman Water Company; Center for Irrigation Technology; City of Clovis; City of Fresno; Fresno Farm Bureau; Fresno Irrigation District; Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District; Kings River Conservation District; Kings River Conservation District; Kings River Water Association; Malaga County Water District; California Department of Transportation; and US Green Industry Council.

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